

DISCLOSURE DIVISION

- ☒ WAIVER REQUEST
☐ ANSWER
☐ RECONSIDERATION REQUEST
☐ UNTIMELY

DATE: 10/1/2021

DOCKET #: 2021-865

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Disclosure Division

FILER INFORMATION

Name: Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins
Address: 4100 Lucas Lane, Lake Charles, LA 70605
Office/Position: Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority
of Disclosures/Amendments Filed with Agency: 3
Years Covered: 2017-2019
Final Report: Yes

REPORT INFORMATION

Name of Report: Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure covering calendar year 2019
Report ID: PFD21009023
Original Due Date: 7/6/2020
NOD Received: 5/10/2021
NOD Signed by: Ladena Daigle
PFD/Answer Due Date based on NOD: 5/19/2021
PFD/Answer Filed: 6/1/2021

LATE FEE INFORMATION

Amount of Late Fee: \$650
Days late from receipt of NOD: 13
Total days late from initial due date: 330
Late Fee Order Received: 8/4/2021
Payment/Waiver Request Due Date: 8/24/2021
Waiver Request Received: 8/6/2021

COMMENTS:

Tara B. Hawkins is requesting a waiver for the late filing of her 2019 PFD Statement. Ms. Hawkins stated she resigned from the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority (LCNRA) on February 27, 2019. She filed her first Annual PFD during her 2018 tenure, but was unaware that she was required to file annually. Ms. Hawkins assumed she was no longer required to file once she resigned. "It was just not clear or logical" that she would need to file a 2018 disclosure in May of 2019, when she was no longer on the board. Nor did she expect that a 2019 disclosure would still be applicable. Once advised that the disclosures were still required, she filed a compliant disclosure. She stated she was not paid while serving as a voluntarily commissioner; And in light of her "personal time and costs expended to serve, and her efforts to properly notify the City of Lake Charles of her resignation, the fine should be waived. Moreover, such an unexpected fine of this large amount for disclosures, unknowingly due in the months and subsequent year after her departure, for a defunct entity is a hardship and serves no useful purpose." Ms. Hawkins stated there was no willful or unduly negligent behavior.

OTHER LATE FEE INFORMATION

Disclosure Statements:

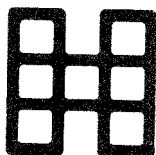
- Other Outstanding Statements: No
- Other Outstanding Late Fees: Yes 2018 - \$650

Pending Waiver

- Prior Late Fees: No
- Reassessed Late Fees: No

Campaign Finance:

- Outstanding Late Fees: No
- Prior Late Fees: No



HAWKINS
L E G A L

OFFICE: 337.313.4090

FAX: 844.494.9304

EMAIL: tara@tarabhawkins.com

VIA FACSIMILE: 225-381-7271 & US MAIL

July 30, 2021

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: **REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF LATE FEE ASSESSMENT**
Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for year 2018
Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority
REPORT: PFD21009022

Ms. Wimberley:

Please accept this as my timely written notice of a request for a waiver of the \$650 late fee assessed to me for the late filing of the Tier 2.1 Personal Disclosure Statement.

As I stated in my response to Lisa Ford regarding the late-filed disclosures, I was appointed to the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority by Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter in April of 2018. I resigned on February 27, 2019. I filed one disclosure during my tenure in 2018 and was unaware that another would be due since I resigned in the early months of 2019. I provided Ms. Ford with notice of my resignation, and she also received confirmation of that resignation from Assistant City Attorney Corey Rubin, who also advised her that the LCNRA has not done any business since 2019.

As I stated to her, I assumed that with that resignation, any future filing requirements were not applicable. It was just not clear or logical to me that I would need to file a 2018 disclosure in May of 2019 when I no longer served on the board. Nor would I expect that a 2019 disclosure would be applicable. Once advised that these additional two years of disclosures were needed; I immediately filed them on June 1, 2021.

I was not paid any expenses or stipends while serving voluntarily as a commissioner on the LCNRA for approximately nine months in service to my community. In light of my personal time and costs expended to serve, and my efforts to properly notify the City of Lake Charles of my resignation, the fine should be waived. Moreover, as I stated above, such an unexpected fine of this large amount for disclosures, unknowingly due in the months and subsequent year after my departure, for a defunct entity is a hardship and serves no useful purpose. There was no willful or unduly negligent

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
AUG 3 '21 PM 1:41

1607 Ryan Street
Post Office Box 3756
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

behavior that led to the failure to file the disclosures. Therefore, I ask that the fee be waived under the circumstances.

Sincerely,



Tara B. Hawkins

/tbh

Enclosure - Rubin, email of 5/24/21

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
AUG 3 '21 PM 1:41

1607 Ryan Street
Post Office Box 3756
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601



Tara Hawkins <tara@tarabhawkins.com>

Tara Hawkins former Commissioner Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority

1 message

Corey Rubin <corey.rubin@cityoflc.us>

To: "LisaF.Ford@la.gov" <LisaF.Ford@la.gov>

Cc: Tara Hawkins <tara@tarabhawkins.com>

Mon, May 24, 2021 at 2:36 PM

Good afternoon Mrs. Ford,

I was the City of Lake Charles' liaison to the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority (LCNRA). The LCNRA currently is inactive due to the fact that there are no active members on its Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Hawkins was the Mayor of the City of Lake Charles' appointee. I know from first-hand knowledge that Mrs. Hawkins resigned from her position on 02/27/2019 by submitting to Mayor Nic Hunter and his Assistant City Administrator her written resignation via email transmission to which I was provided a courtesy copy of the same. Again, the LCNRA does not have any board of commissioner members; and therefore, it does not conduct any official business at this time and has not done so since 2019. If you need any additional information or assistance, please advise me. Thank you.

COREY L. RUBIN

Assistant City Attorney

City of Lake Charles

Legal Department

Post Office Box 900

Lake Charles, LA 70602-0900

Office: (337) 491-1523

Fax: (337) 491-1488

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL: The information contained in this message and any attachments may be privileged, confidential, and protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, or an employee, or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by replying to the message and deleting from your computer.

The City of Lake Charles fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and related statutes, executive orders, and regulations in all programs and activities. The City operates without regard to race, color, national origin, income, gender, age, and disability. Any person who believes him/herself or any specific class of persons, to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI/ADA may by him/herself or by representative file a written complaint with the City of Lake Charles. The City's Title VI/ADA Coordinator may be reached by phone at (337) 491-1440, the Mayor's Action Line at (337) 491-1346, or contact the appropriate Department Head.



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS

P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70200090000064274641

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 7, 2021

Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins
4100 Lucas Lane
Lake Charles, LA 70605

RE: NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY - FAILURE TO FILE
Statement covering 2018 (originally due on May 15, 2019)
Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority

Dear Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins:

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4, if a person fails to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement as required by 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1, or 1124.3; omits information; or files inaccurately, a Notice of Delinquency shall be issued. A review of our records indicates that we have not received your Personal Financial Disclosure Statement.

You have 7 business days from the date of receipt of this Notice to file your Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2018, which was originally due on May 15, 2019, or to submit an Answer explaining why you feel you are not required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement. Failure to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement or an Answer within the 7 business days will subject you to an automatic late fee of \$50 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500. Proof of timely filing is determined by the U.S. Postal Service postmark; commercial delivery service; fax, upload, or electronic filing confirmation date stamp.

The form for the Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (Form 417) is available on the Louisiana Board of Ethics website at www.ethics.la.gov. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 225/219-5600 or 800/842-6630.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ford
Program Compliance Officer

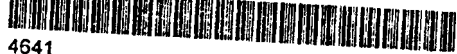
SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Complete items 1, 2, and 3.

Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.

Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins
4100 Lucas Lane
Lake Charles, LA 70605



4641



9590 9402 5992 0062 0812 33

Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7020 0090 0000 6427 4641

S Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins

☒ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins

C. Date of Delivery

10/17

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

ETHICS BOARD RECD

LF

2018/19 May

3. Service Type

- ☐ Adult Signature
- ☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery
- ☒ Certified Mail®
- ☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery
- ☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

- ☐ Priority Mail Express®
- ☐ Registered Mail™
- ☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery
- ☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise
- ☒ Signature Confirmation™
- ☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Restricted Delivery

Domestic Return Receipt

Tara Bell Hawkins, Esq.

HAWKINS LEGAL

Post Office Box 3756

Lake Charles, LA 70602-3756

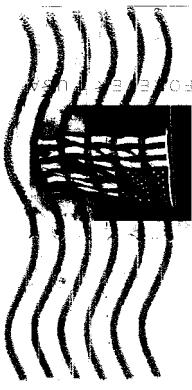
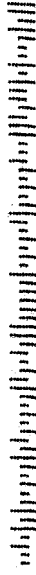
ETHICS BOARD REC'D
AUG 3 '21 PM 1:39

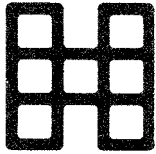
BATON ROUGE LA 707

30 JUL 2021 PM 2 L

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

70821-4368





HAWKINS
L E G A L

OFFICE: 337.313.4090

FAX: 844.494.9304

EMAIL: tara@tarabhawkins.com

VIA FACSIMILE: 225-381-7271 & US MAIL

August 5, 2021

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

RE: REQUEST FOR WAIVER OF LATE FEE ASSESSMENT
Tier 2.1 Annual Personal Financial Disclosure Statement for year 2019
Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority
REPORT: PFD21009023

Ms. Wimberley:

Please accept this as my timely written notice of a request for a waiver of the \$650 late fee assessed to me for the late filing of the Tier 2.1 Personal Disclosure Statement.

As I stated in my response to Lisa Ford regarding the late-filed disclosures, I was appointed to the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority by Lake Charles Mayor Nic Hunter in April of 2018. I resigned on February 27, 2019. I filed one disclosure during my tenure in 2018 and was unaware that another would be due since I resigned in the early months of 2019. I provided Ms. Ford with notice of my resignation, and she also received confirmation of that resignation from Assistant City Attorney Corey Rubin, who also advised her that the LCNRA has not done any business since 2019.

As I stated to her, I assumed that with that resignation, any future filing requirements were not applicable. It was just not clear or logical to me that I would need to file a 2018 disclosure in May of 2019 when I no longer served on the board. Nor would I expect that a 2019 disclosure would be applicable. Once advised that these additional two years of disclosures were needed; I immediately filed them on June 1, 2021.

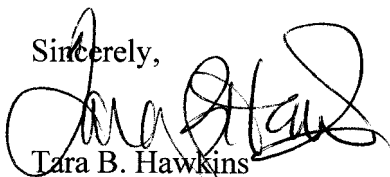
I was not paid any expenses or stipends while serving voluntarily as a commissioner on the LCNRA for approximately nine months in service to my community. In light of my personal time and costs expended to serve, and my efforts to properly notify the City of Lake Charles of my resignation, the fine should be waived. Moreover, as I stated above, such an unexpected fine of this large amount for disclosures, unknowingly due in the months and subsequent year after my departure, for a defunct entity is a hardship and serves no useful purpose. There was no willful or unduly negligent

ETHICS BOARD REC'D
AUG 9 '21 PM 1:57

1607 Ryan Street
Post Office Box 3756
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601

behavior that led to the failure to file the disclosures. Therefore, I ask that the fee be waived under the circumstances.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tara B. Hawkins', written over the printed name.

Tara B. Hawkins

/tbh

1607 Ryan Street
Post Office Box 3756
Lake Charles, Louisiana 70601



STATE OF LOUISIANA
DEPARTMENT OF STATE CIVIL SERVICE
LOUISIANA BOARD OF ETHICS
P. O. BOX 4368
BATON ROUGE, LA 70821
(225) 219-5600
FAX: (225) 381-7271
1-800-842-6630
www.ethics.la.gov

CERTIFIED MAIL

NO. 70200090000064274641

RETURN RECEIPT REQUESTED

May 7, 2021

Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins
4100 Lucas Lane
Lake Charles, LA 70605

RE: NOTICE OF DELINQUENCY - FAILURE TO FILE
Statement covering 2019 (originally due on July 6, 2020)
Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority

Dear Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins:

Pursuant to La. R.S. 42:1124.4, if a person fails to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement as required by 42:1124, 1124.2, 1124.2.1, or 1124.3; omits information; or files inaccurately, a Notice of Delinquency shall be issued. A review of our records indicates that we have not received your Personal Financial Disclosure Statement.

You have 7 business days from the date of receipt of this Notice to file your Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement covering 2019, which was originally due on July 6, 2020, or to submit an Answer explaining why you feel you are not required to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement. Failure to file a Personal Financial Disclosure Statement or an Answer within the 7 business days will subject you to an automatic late fee of \$50 per day up to a maximum of \$1,500. Proof of timely filing is determined by the U.S. Postal Service postmark; commercial delivery service; fax, upload, or electronic filing confirmation date stamp.

The form for the Tier 2.1 Personal Financial Disclosure Statement (Form 417) is available on the Louisiana Board of Ethics website at www.ethics.la.gov. If you have any questions, you may contact me at 225/219-5600 or 800/842-6630.

Sincerely,

Lisa Ford
Program Compliance Officer

SENDER: COMPLETE THIS SECTION

Complete items 1, 2, and 3.

Print your name and address on the reverse so that we can return the card to you.

Attach this card to the back of the mailpiece, or on the front if space permits.

Addressed to:
Tara Elaine Bell Hawkins
4100 Lucas Lane
Lake Charles, LA 70605



4641



9590 9402 5992 0062 0812 33

Article Number (Transfer from service label)

7020 0090 0000 6427 4641

S Form 3811, July 2015 PSN 7530-02-000-9053

COMPLETE THIS SECTION ON DELIVERY

A. Signature

**Tadess Dair*

☒ Agent

☐ Addressee

B. Received by (Printed Name)

Tadess Dair

C. Date of Delivery

10/10

D. Is delivery address different from item 1? ☐ Yes

If YES, enter delivery address below: ☐ No

CELESTINE

LF

2018/10/10

3. Service Type

☐ Adult Signature

☐ Adult Signature Restricted Delivery

☒ Certified Mail®

☐ Certified Mail Restricted Delivery

☐ Collect on Delivery

☐ Collect on Delivery Restricted Delivery

☐ Priority Mail Express®

☐ Registered Mail™

☐ Registered Mail Restricted Delivery

☐ Return Receipt for Merchandise

☒ Signature Confirmation™

☐ Signature Confirmation Restricted Delivery

Restricted Delivery

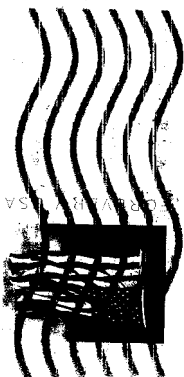
Domestic Return Receipt

Tara Bell Hawkins, Esq.
HAWKINS LEGAL
Post Office Box 3756
Lake Charles, LA 70602-3756

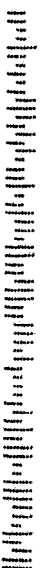
ETHICS BOARD REC'D
AUG 9 '21 PM 1:43

Ashley Wimberley, Director
Louisiana Board of Ethics
P.O. Box 4368
Baton Rouge, LA 70821

BATON ROUGE LA 707
6 AUG 2021 PM 1 L



70821-43668



PT 25960

Lisa F. Ford

From: Corey Rubin <corey.rubin@cityoflc.us>
Sent: Monday, May 24, 2021 2:36 PM
To: Lisa F. Ford
Cc: Tara Hawkins
Subject: Tara Hawkins former Commissioner Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Good afternoon Mrs. Ford,

I was the City of Lake Charles' liaison to the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority (LCNRA). The LCNRA currently is inactive due to the fact that there are no active members on its Board of Commissioners. Mrs. Hawkins was the Mayor of the City of Lake Charles' appointee. I know from first-hand knowledge that Mrs. Hawkins resigned from her position on 02/27/2019 by submitting to Mayor Nic Hunter and his Assistant City Administrator her written resignation via email transmission to which I was provided a courtesy copy of the same. Again, the LCNRA does not have any board of commissioner members; and therefore, it does not conduct any official business at this time and has not done so since 2019. If you need any additional information or assistance, please advise me. Thank you.

COREY L. RUBIN
Assistant City Attorney
City of Lake Charles
Legal Department
Post Office Box 900
Lake Charles, LA 70602-0900
Office: (337) 491-1523
Fax: (337) 491-1488

ATTORNEY-CLIENT PRIVILEGED & CONFIDENTIAL: The information contained in this message and any attachments may be privileged, confidential, and protected from disclosure. If you are not the intended recipient, or an employee, or agent responsible for delivering this message to the intended recipient, you are hereby notified that any dissemination, distribution, or copying of this communication is strictly prohibited. If you have received this communication in error, please notify me immediately by replying to the message and deleting from your computer.

The City of Lake Charles fully complies with Title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (ADA), and related statutes, executive orders, and regulations in all programs and activities. The City operates without regard to race, color, national origin, income, gender, age, and disability. Any person who believes him/herself or any specific class of persons, to be subjected to discrimination prohibited by Title VI/ADA may by him/herself or by representative file a written complaint with the City of Lake Charles. The City's Title VI/ADA Coordinator may be reached by phone at (337) 491-1440, the Mayor's Action Line at (337) 491-1346, or contact the appropriate Department Head.

Lisa F. Ford

PF25960

From: Tara Hawkins <tara@tarabhawkins.com>
Sent: Sunday, May 23, 2021 4:56 PM
To: Lisa F. Ford
Subject: Fwd: LCNRA resignation

EXTERNAL EMAIL: Please do not click on links or attachments unless you know the content is safe.

Ms. Ford:

Below is the original notice sent to the City of Lake Charles re: my resignation from the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority. It was originally sent on February 27, 2019 to the Mayor, Nic Hunter, his assistant, Kimberly Dellafosse, and the Asst. City Attorney, Corey Rubin.

I have contacted Mr. Rubin and advised him to confirm my resignation from the Authority, as you requested. I do not believe the Authority is operating presently, so I sent the request to him to ensure you receive confirmation.

Tara Hawkins

----- Forwarded message -----

From: Tara Hawkins <tara@tarabhawkins.com>
Date: Wed, Feb 27, 2019 at 5:47 PM
Subject: LCNRA resignation
To: <n.hunter@cityoflc.us>
Cc: <kimberly.dellafosse@cityoflc.us>, Corey Rubin <corey.rubin@cityoflc.us>

Mr. Mayor:

Thank you for my appointment to serve as a Commissioner of the Lake Charles North Redevelopment Authority. However, respectfully, I am submitting my resignation, despite my appreciation of the opportunity you have afforded me to work in partnership with the City to assist in the development of this important part of the City of Lake Charles.

My observations and participation since April of 2018 have led me to conclude that the LCNRA's enabling legislation and other aspects of its structure should be revisited and re-considered, so that an entity can arise in the future that truly has the resources and structure necessary to perform its mission.

I continue to support the city's efforts to create conditions that can accelerate economic growth and stability throughout the entire city.

Thank you again for the opportunity.

Tara B. Hawkins
HAWKINS LEGAL
716 Hodges Street